

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00248 021121 Z

52

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 RSR-01 EUR-25 IO-12 SY-10 OPR-02

PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-12 /134 W
----- 084114

P 301300 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0673

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MANAMA 0248

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINS, PINR

SUBJECT : SECURITY ON GULF AND BAHRAIN

REF : TEHRAN 2784 AND MANAMA 234

1) BEGIN SUMMARY: AMIR AND PRIMIN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY IN BAHRAIN AND GULF AREA. THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH LACK OF FIRMNESS AND JOINT ACTION BY GULF STATES AGAINST COMMON THREAT. AMIR INTENDS TO URGZ KING FAISAL TOHTAKE STRONGER LEAD. PRIMIN IS DEALING FIRMLY WITH PFLOAG MEMBERS RECENTLY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. END SUMMARY.

2) WHEN AMIR ISA RECEIVED GENERAL GOODPASTER APRIL 26, ISA SAID HE WAS PROUJ OF BAHRAIN' S CONTACTS WITH U. S. AND WANTED THEM TO EXPAND, DESPITE WHAT ARAB TROUBLE MAKERS MIGHT THINK. AMIR QUICKLY RAISED SUBJECTS OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY IN BAHRAIN AND GULF AREA AND HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH LACK OF
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SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAMA 00248 021121 Z

COOPERATIVE ACTION AGAINST THREAT BY GULF STATES. FACT IS BAHRAIN'S LEADERS WERE GIVEN QUITE A JOLT BY RECENT IRAQI AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT. HAMIR TOLD US HE HAD WRITTEN TO IRAQI PRESIDENT POINTING OUT IF IRAQ WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN GULF AFFAIRS, SEIZURE OF KUWAIT TERRITORY WAS NO WAY TO GO ABOUT IT.

3) AMIR SAID HE WOULD VISIT KING FAISAL IN FEW WEEKS AFTER KING RETURNS FROM PARIS, AND INTENDED TO URGE HIM TO TAKE FIRMER LEAD IN GETTING GULF STATES TO COOPERATE. SAUDI ARABIA, HE BELIEVED, SHOULD DO MORE IN THIS DIRECTION. IN HIS EYES RECENT TOUR OF GULF STATES BY PRINCE SULTAN WAS NOT ESPECIALLY PRODUCTIVE. AMIR'S VISIT TO RIYADH WILL BE PART OF FAISAL'S EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF LONGSTANDING TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN BAHRAIN AND QATAR. HE OBSERVED THAT BRITISH ALLOWED DISPUTE TO PERSIST OVER THE YEARS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WISH THEIR SMALL FISH TO SWIM IN CLEAR WATER.

4) PREVIOUS DAY PRIMIN, SHAIKH KHALIFA, TOLD CHARGE HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN KUWAIT GOVT'S SOFTNESS TOWARD ITS OWN RADICAL OPPONENTS. HE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR GOK LENIENCY WITH KUWAIT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, MAJORITY OF WHOM WE UNDERSTAND ARE BAHRAINIS.

5) ON SUBJECT OF LARGE GROUP OF PFLOAG MEMBERS RECENTLY ARRESTED, SHAIKH KHALIFA SAID THEY (INCLUDING TWO WOMEN) ARE BEING HELD ON PRISON ISLAND OF UMMHNASAN. HE ADDED THEY WILL STAY THERE, AND DECLARED HE WAS DETERMINED TO ACT FIRMLY AGAINST THE FEW WHO WISH TO DESTROY EVERYTHING WHICH HAS BEEN BUILT UP IN BAHRAIN.

6) SHAIKH KHALIFA HAS BEEN DE FACTO INTERIOR MINISTER SINCE HIS BROTHER SHAIKH MUHAMMAD BIN SALMAN WITHDREW FROM GOVT IN PROTEST AGAINST LENIENT TREATMENT GIVEN TO CERTAIN OPPONENTS OF AL-KHALIFA FAMILY. THERE IS GROWING EXPECTATION THAT THIS STERN TRADITIONALIST WILL SOON RESUME HIS SUPERVISION OF POLICE.
STEIN

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